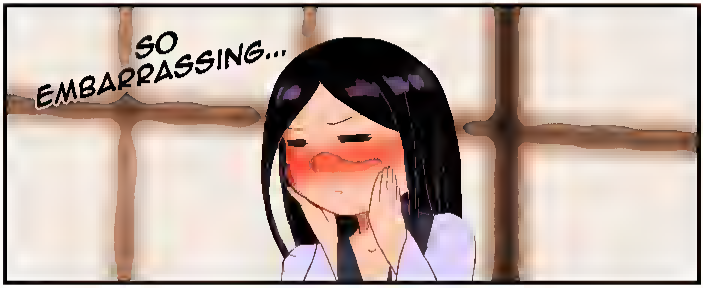
PRINCESS
AKANE IS GOING

TO BE HERE TOMORROW...!
SHE'S GORGEOUS.
IS THAT ALL YOU GUYS EVER TALK ABOUT?
COME ON. YOU HAVE ADMIT SHE'S PRETTY.

I'VE SEEN BETTER.
WHAT DO YOU ALL WANNA DO TONIGHT ANYWAY?
I DON'T REALLY CARE

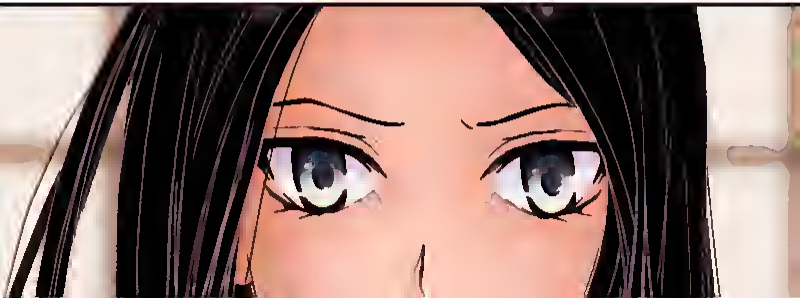
..DINE WITH ME.
ALTHOUGH

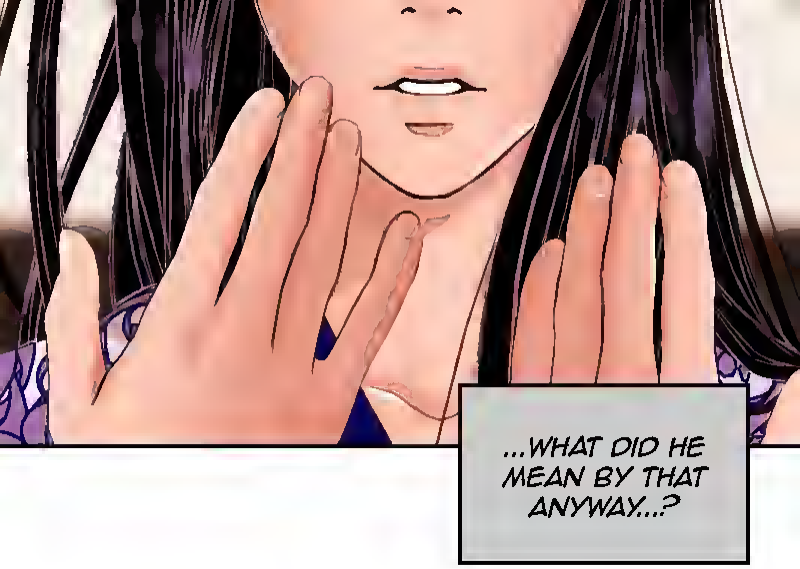
YOU'D HAVE ME BELIEVE YOU AREN'T INTERESTED ...
...YOUR FACE BETRAYS YOU.
...FOR SUCH A FIERCE WOMAN, YOU HAVE A SURPRISING WEAKNESS.




...YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT'S

THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE IN THIS PALACE?






♫ GUESS WHO ~!! ♫

SIGH

LIEUTENANT.
HUHU~! YOU GUESSED RIGHT!
SO HAPPY

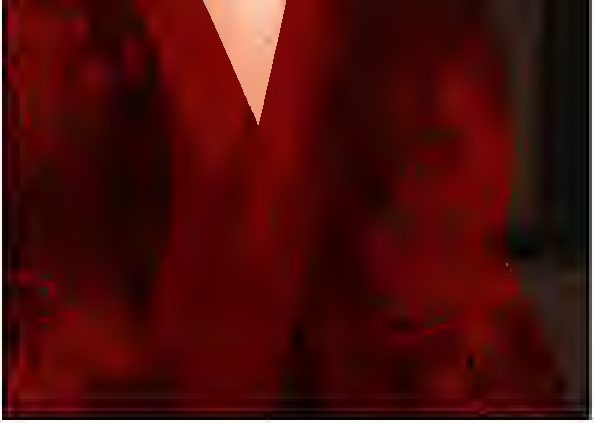
NOW YOU WIN A PRIZE~!

?!!
TILT~

NO, THANK YOU.
CHASTE AS

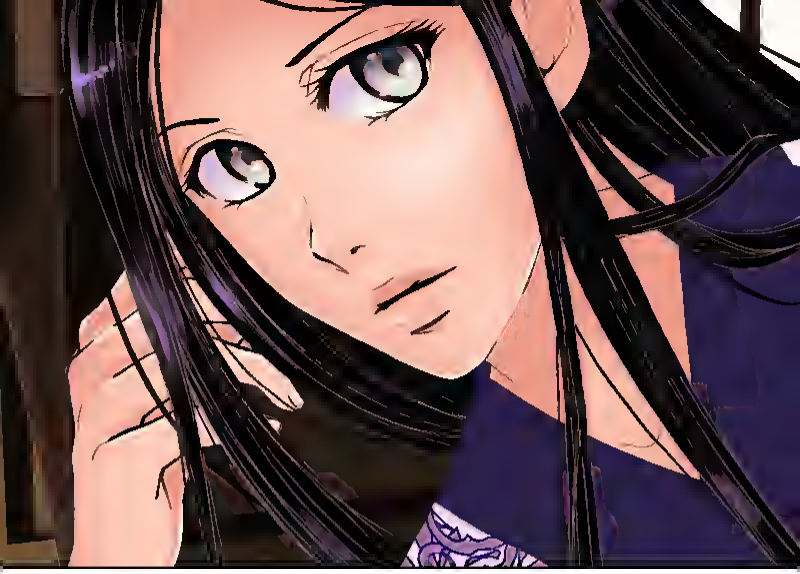
USUAL, I SEE.

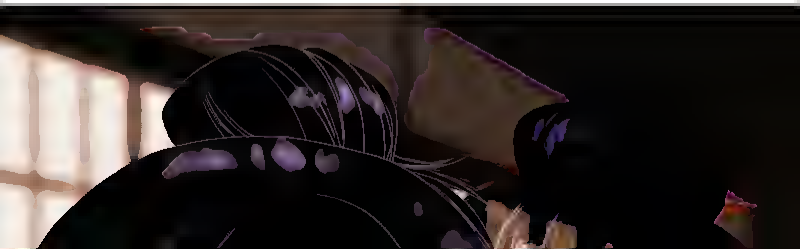
YOU LOOKED DEEP IN THOUGHT. YOU ALRIGHT?

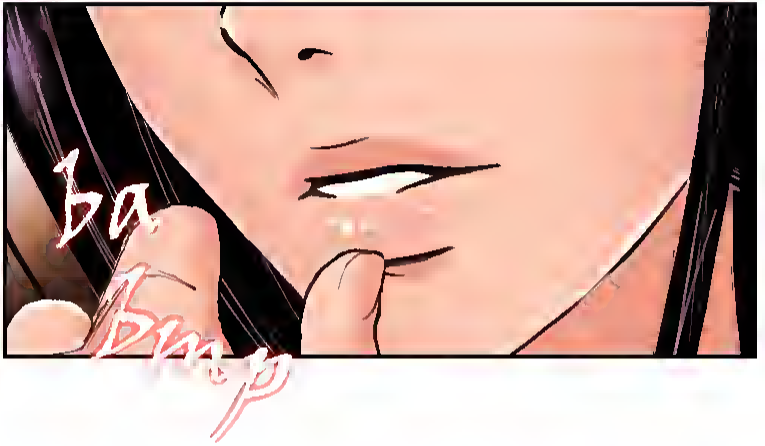


HM...
YOUR HAIR
LIKE THAT...

OOO~
YOU LIKE IT
LIKE THIS?








HMM... LOOKING AT ME SO INTENTLY, AREN'T YOU?

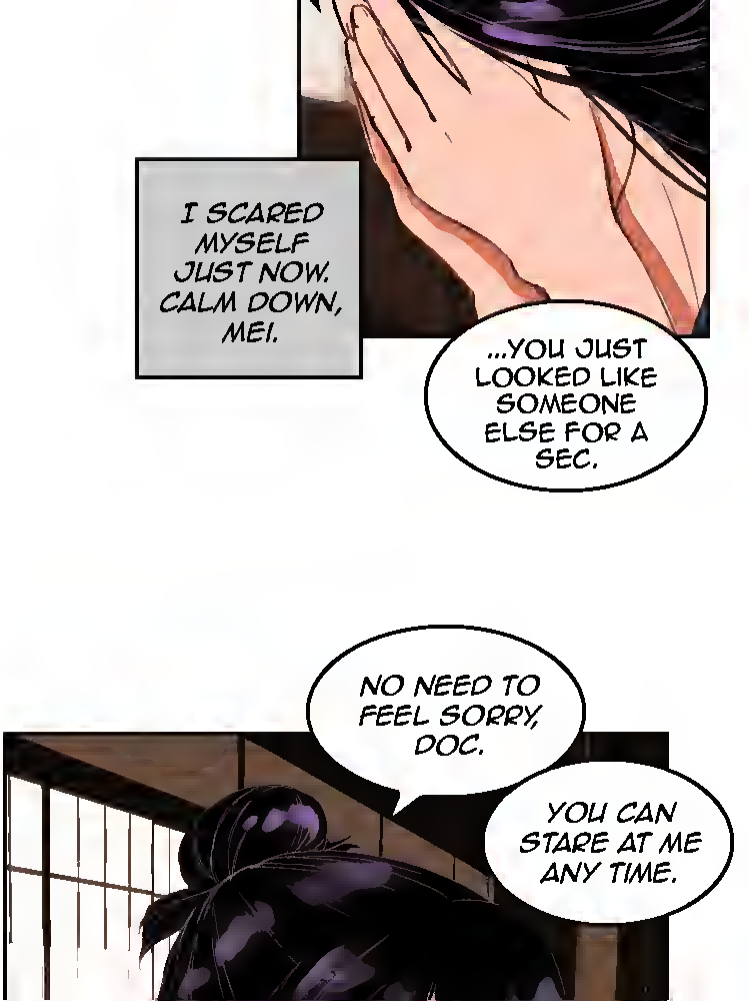
I MUST BE SEEING THINGS. A SIMPLE COINCIDENCE, REALLY.
*CHUCKLE*
IF YOU KEEP STARING, I MIGHT GET THE IDEA YOU LIKE ME.

PLENTY OF MEN WEAR THEIR HAIR LIKE THAT. NOT JUST THE KING, OR THE LIEUTENANT.

BESIDES, HE'S THE LIEUTENANT GENERAL.

*SIGH*

...SORRY FOR STARING. I DIDN'T MEAN TO.


I SCARED MYSELF JUST NOW. CALM DOWN, MEI.
...YOU JUST LOOKED LIKE SOMEONE ELSE FOR A SEC.
NO NEED TO FEEL SORRY, DOC.
YOU CAN STARE AT ME ANY TIME.

NOBODY.
NOT IMPORTANT.

ANYWAYS, WHAT DO YOU WANT?

FL
~
IP

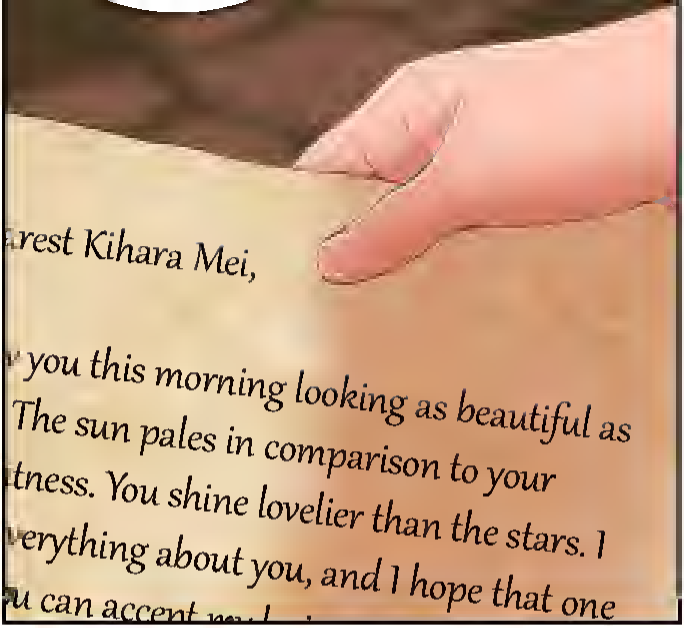
THIS LETTER CAME FOR YOU TODAY.

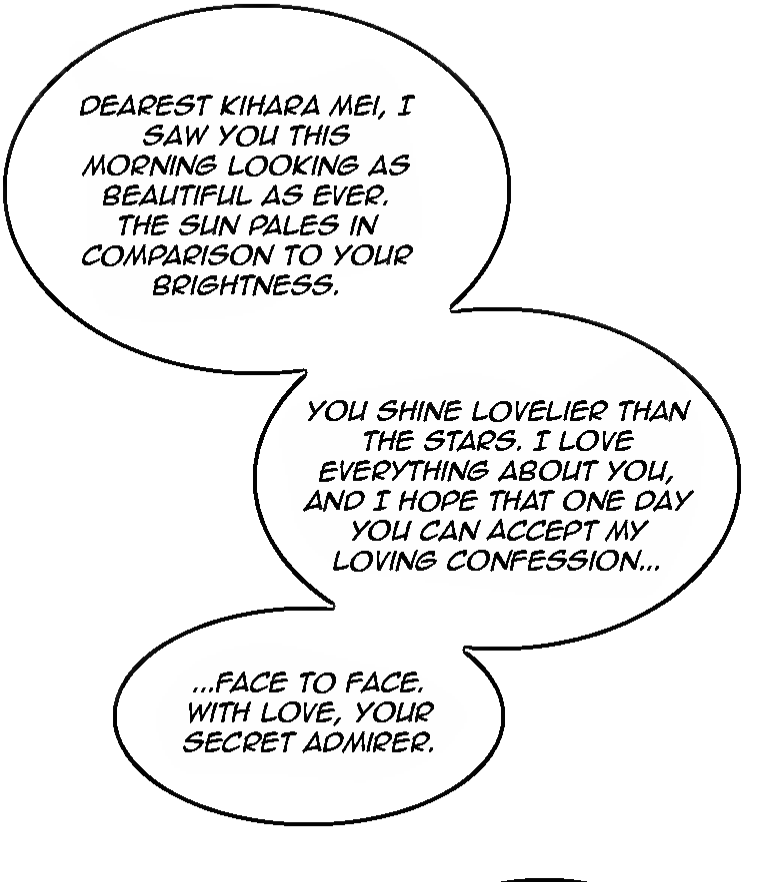
EH? ARE YOU A MESSENGER NOW?

WHO GAVE YOU THIS?

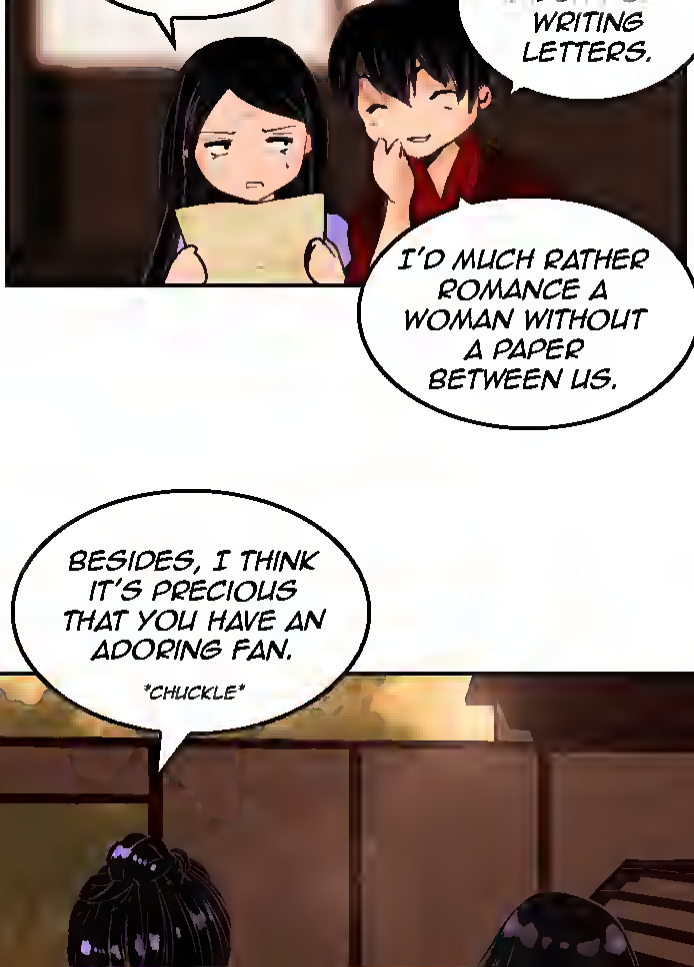
I DON'T KNOW.
IT WAS SITTING ON THE TABLE WHEN I DROPPED BY THE OFFICE, AND MR. FUJIOKA SAID I COULD BRING IT TO YOU.

I'M SO CURIOUS~ WHAT DOES IT SAY??


rest Kihara Mei,
you this morning looking as beautiful as
The sun pales in comparison to your
tness. You shine lovelier than the stars. I
erything about you, and I hope that one
u can accept


DEAREST KIHARA MEI, I SAW YOU THIS MORNING LOOKING AS BEAUTIFUL AS EVER. THE SUN PALES IN COMPARISON TO YOUR BRIGHTNESS.
YOU SHINE LOVELIER THAN THE STARS. I LOVE EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU, AND I HOPE THAT ONE DAY YOU CAN ACCEPT MY LOVING CONFESSION...
...FACE TO FACE. WITH LOVE, YOUR SECRET ADMIRER.

OH MY~! THIS SECRET ADMIRER CERTAINLY HAS A WAY WITH WORDS.
...
I SHOULD TAKE NOTES.
IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE, LIEUTENANT? DID YOU WRITE THIS?
NO, I'M NOT MUCH FOR


WRITING LETTERS.
I'D MUCH RATHER ROMANCE A WOMAN WITHOUT A PAPER BETWEEN US.
BESIDES, I THINK IT'S PRECIOUS THAT YOU HAVE AN ADORING FAN.
*CHUCKLE*

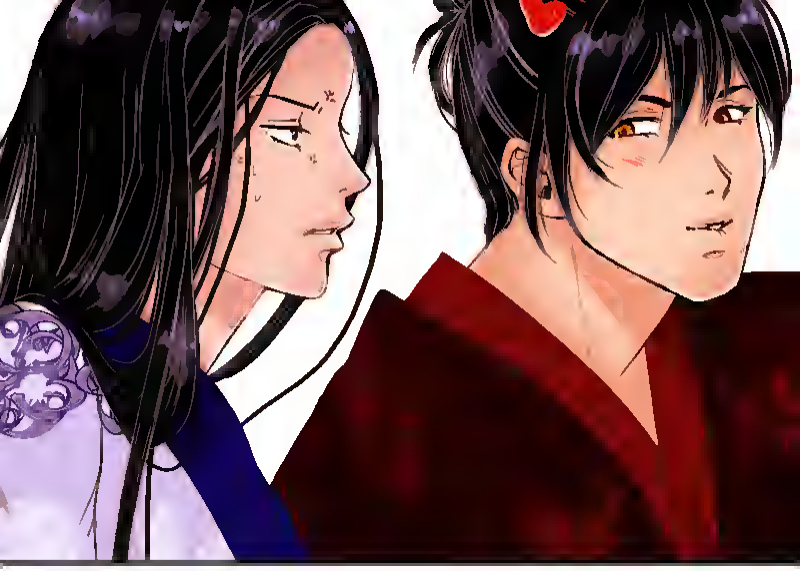
SIGH
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO IT MIGHT BE? IT'S STRESSING ME OUT.
NO I DON'T,

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT MIGHT RELIEVE YOUR STRESS?
PEOPLE LEAVING ME ALONE.
A NICE HOT BATH!

WE HAVE A LOVELY BATH HOUSE BUILT OVER A HOT SPRING, YOU KNOW.
IT'S OPEN TO ALL PALACE RESIDENTS.

THANKS, BUT NO THANKS. I'M NOT INTO BATHING AROUND MEN.

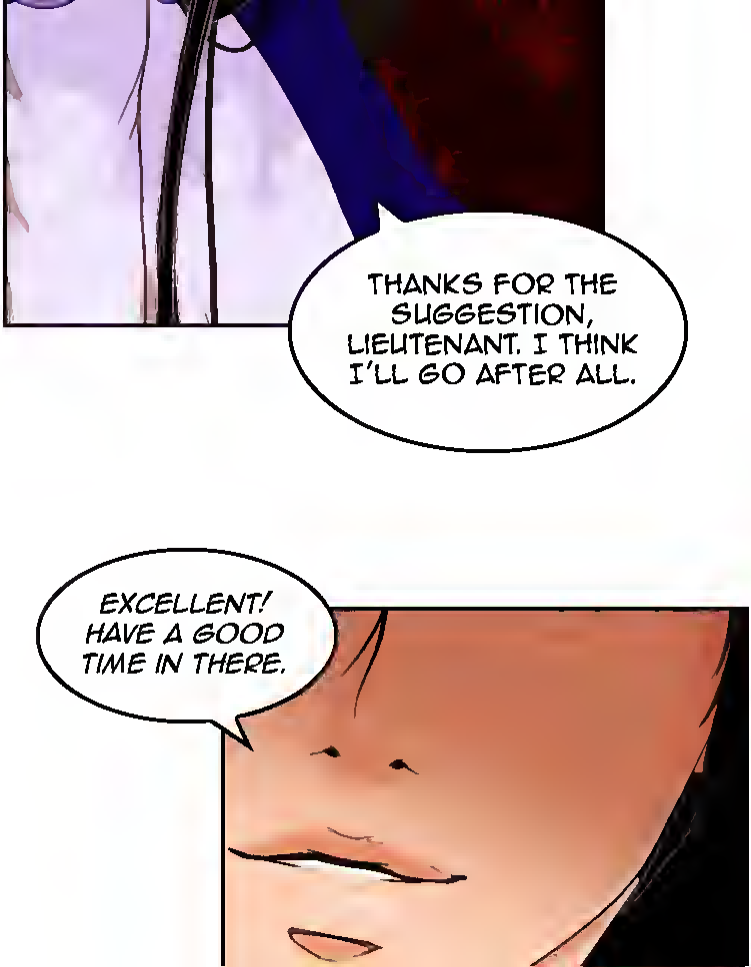
PRUDE ~



WELL, YOU'RE IN LUCK. THERE'S A WOMEN'S SECTION OF THE BATH HOUSE, TOO~!

MAINLY THE KING'S HAREM USES IT, BUT I'M SURE YOU'D BE WELCOME INSIDE, TOO, SEEING AS YOU'RE ALSO A PALACE RESIDENT.
AND THIS TIME OF DAY, IT'S USUALLY PRETTY EMPTY IN

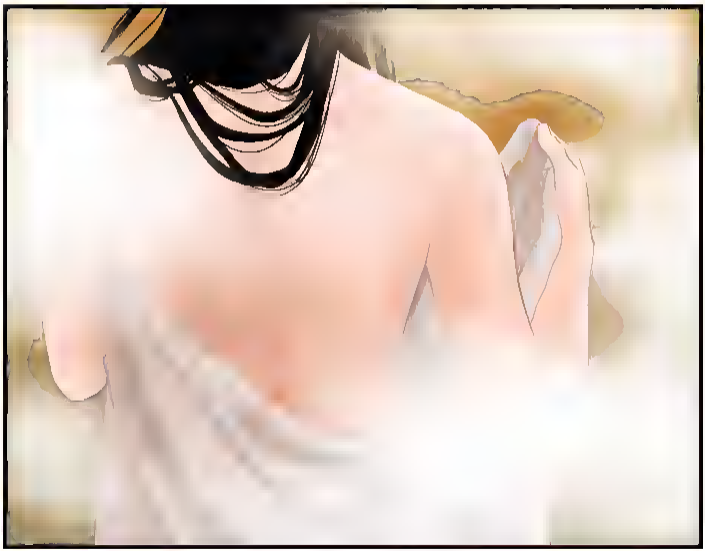
THERE.


THANKS FOR THE SUGGESTION, LIEUTENANT. I THINK I'LL GO AFTER ALL.
EXCELLENT! HAVE A GOOD TIME IN THERE.

I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU LATER.

PLEASE DON'T.

THE PLACE IS EMPTY, JUST AS HE SAID.



...SHOULD BE RELAXING!

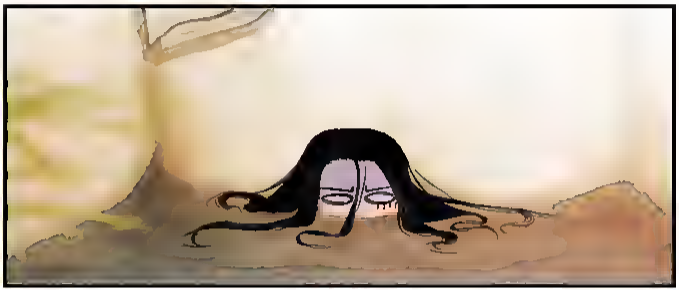
*TSK*
NOT
ALONE
ANYMORE,
EH...

HEY, MAN! HOW YOU BEEN? HOW'S YOUR WIFE DOING?

AH, PRETTY GOOD.
NOT AS GOOD AS YOUR WIFE!
HAHA! YOU JEALOUS?
WELL, WE CAN'T ALL BE THAT LUCKY.
MINE'S JUST UGLY.
WAIT A SECOND ...

AM I IN THE MEN'S BATH

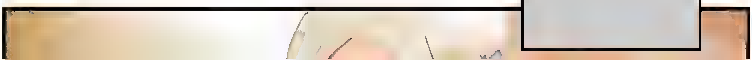
HOUSE?!

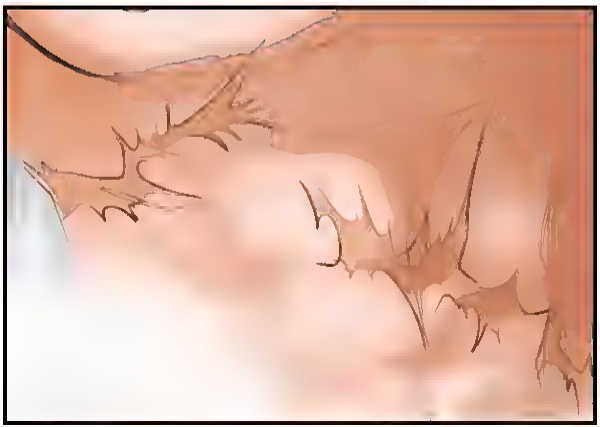


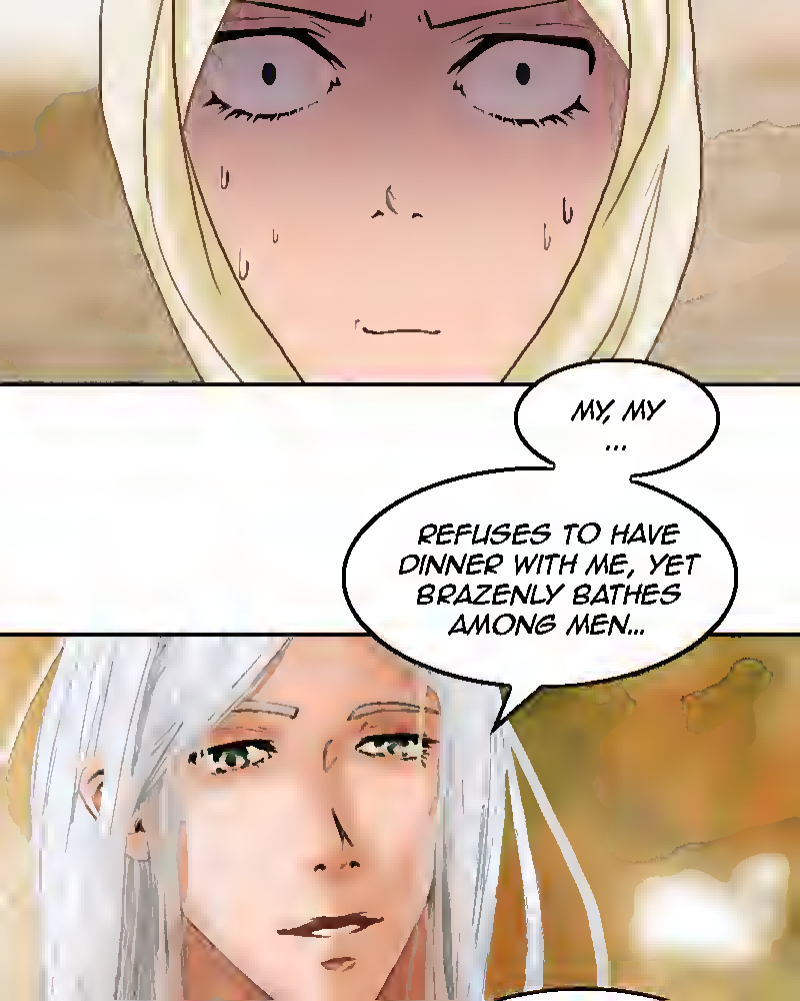
THAT STUPID LIEUTENANT. I FOLLOWED HIS DIRECTIONS EXACTLY!

I NEED TO FIND A WAY TO GET OUT OF HERE DISCREETLY AND UNNOTICED.

ALRIGHT, I THINK IT'S SAFE NOW.





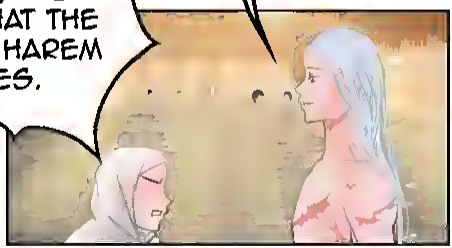

MY, MY
...
REFUSES TO HAVE DINNER WITH ME, YET BRAZENLY BATHES AMONG MEN...

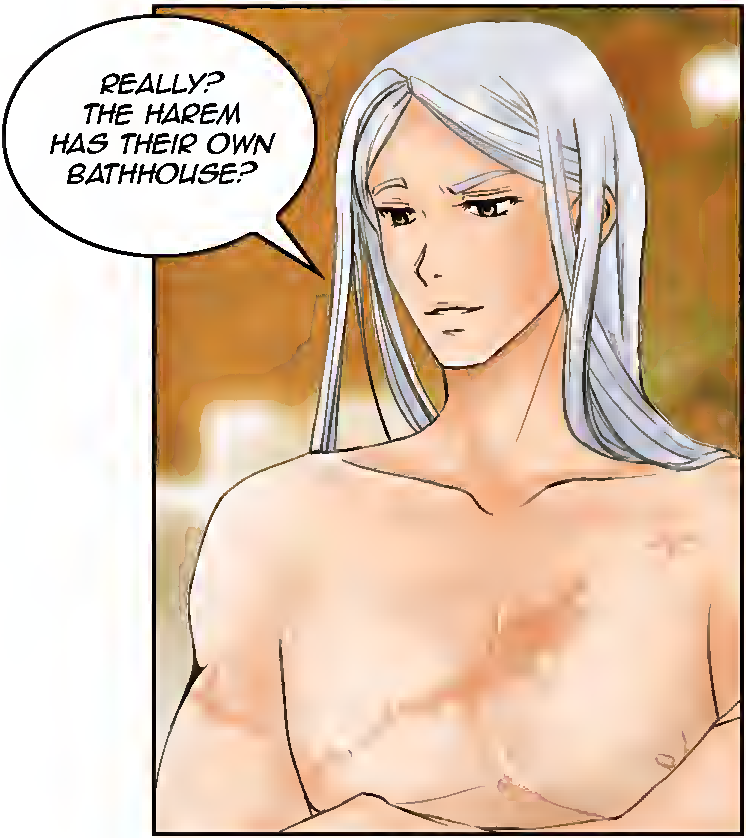
...SUCH AN INTERESTING WOMAN.

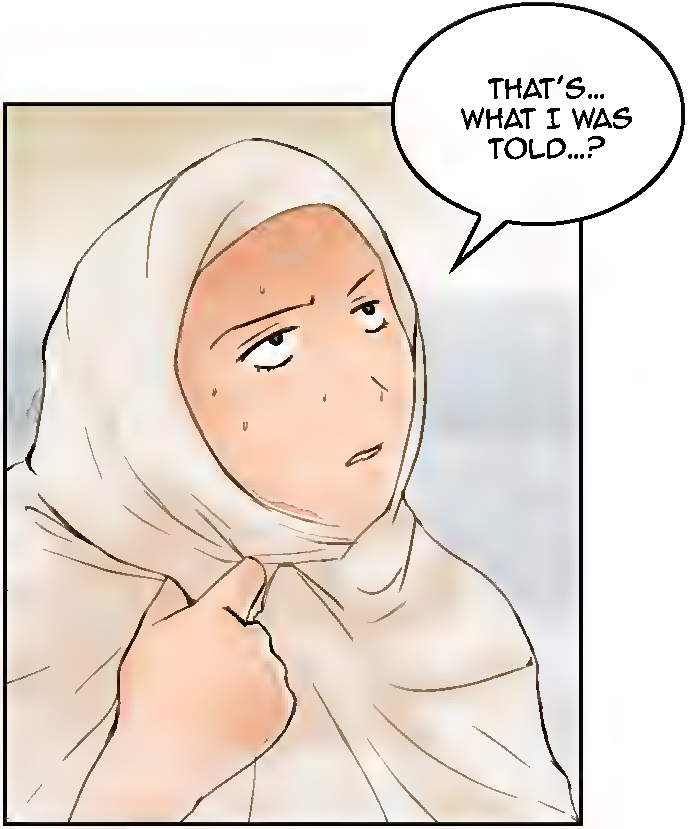
THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE WOMEN'S BATHHOUSE!

THE WOMEN'S BATH HOUSE?

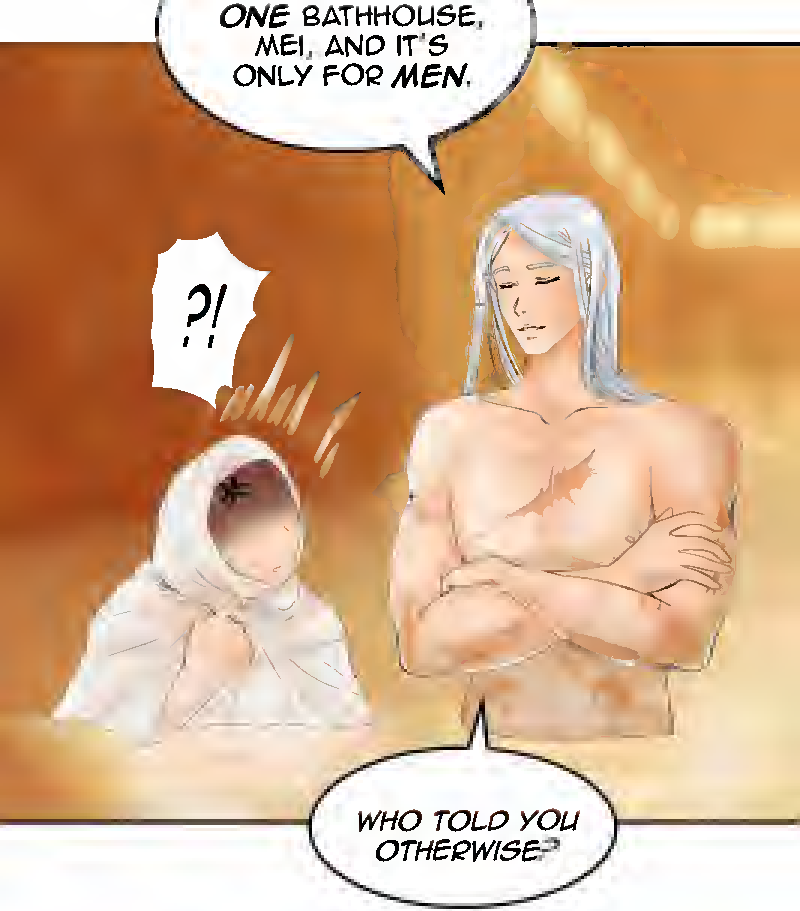
YEAH, THE ONE THAT THE KING'S HAREM USES.

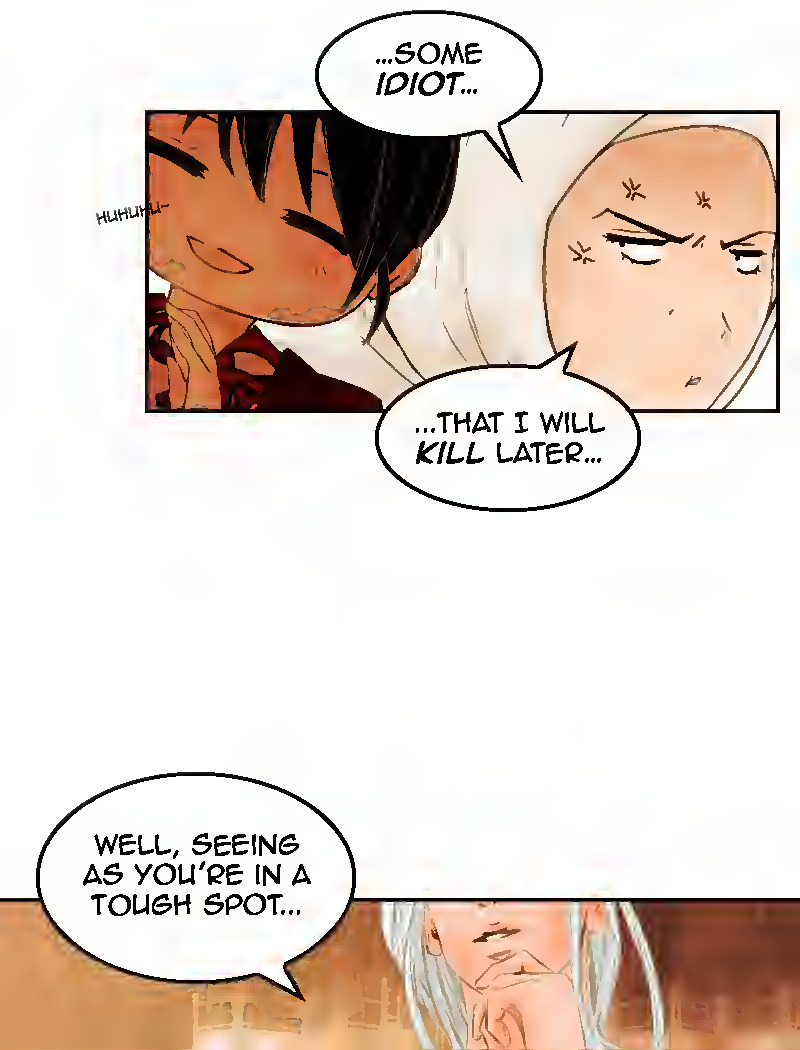



REALLY? THE HAREM HAS THEIR OWN BATHHOUSE?

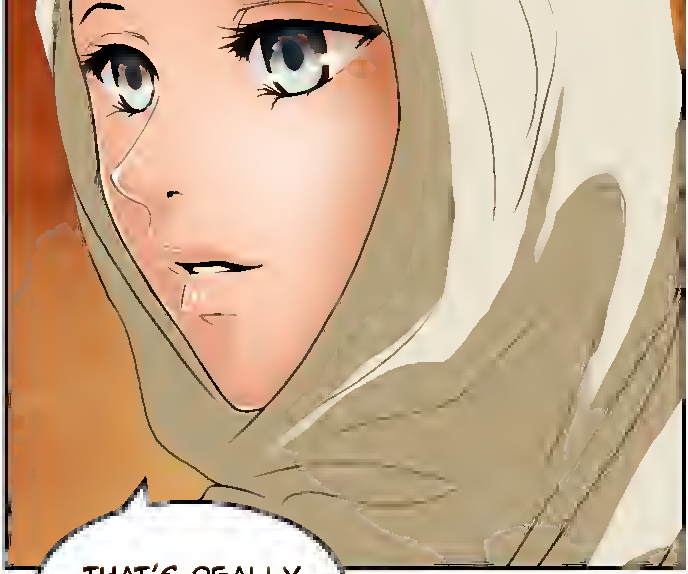



THERE IS ONLY


ONE BATHHOUSE, MEI, AND IT'S ONLY FOR MEN.
?!
WHO TOLD YOU OTHERWISE?


...SOME IDIOT...
HUHUHU~
...THAT I WILL KILL LATER...
WELL, SEEING AS YOU'RE IN A TOUGH SPOT...

I'LL OFFER TO HELP YOU OUT OF HERE WITHOUT BEING SEEN.
R-REALLY...?


THAT'S REALLY VERY NICE.
FOR A SMALL FEE.

SWINDLER.

BEFORE I DECIDE, WHAT'S YOUR SMALL FEE?

...

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